

Camp Near Cedar Creek
Virginia Nov. 1st 1862.

Dear Mother

I received your
very kind letter of the 26th, this morn-
ing and was very glad to hear
from you, and also to hear from
Harrison for I have not heard from
him before since he was wounded.

I wrote you the next day after
the fight of the 19th our Regt.
lost a great many, so that it is
reduced to very small numbers.
there is only about 140. of us left.

Our company was very lucky ~~as~~
as we were protected by a stone wall

through the hardest of the fight.
But we came very ^{near} being captured
every one of us. we held our position
untill the Johnny's got us nearly surrou-
nded, and we had to fall back, leaving
all of our killed & wounded in their
hands, but we made them pay
dear for it. before night, we came
back that night - to where our
Regt fought them in the morning
we found ~~th~~ killed eighteen dead and
some some wounded so bad that
they could not get off, that had
lain there all day. the Rebs. stripped
the clothes off from our dead and wound-
ed. Some of them were left almost
naked. We lay here in our old
Camp that we occupied before the
battle. we have not done any thing
since then, but drill a little once
in a while. I dont think the Johnny's
will trouble us any more this fall.

We have not heard any thing from them since the fight. they have not got any Infantry this side of Harrisonburg nothing but some Cavalry.

The weather is getting to be quite odd it has rained for two days which makes it quite disagreeable. We got our overcoats and blankets that we left in New Orleans last spring so that we have a plenty of clothes, more than we will want to carry if we have to march. We got paid off yesterday. I got only two months pay. There was four due me, we shall get paid again in a few days. Give my love to all.

From your affet Son
John S. Branch